THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the average transmission and distribution losses in the country for the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are 32.86%, 33.98% and 32.54% respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The high T&D losses in the country are due to overloaded and weak physical infrastructure, poor billing & collection efficiency, lack of investment, poor repair & maintenance of equipments, insufficient capacitors, theft & pilferage and negligible energy accounting & auditing etc.

Shortfall in electricity generation due to scanty rainfall

†1544. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a shortfall is expected in electricity generation in the country due to scanty rainfall in the monsoon season;

(b) if so, the percentage of the estimated shortfall in the year 2004-05 together with the names of the units in which less electricity generation is expected;

(c) the reasons for this less generation of electicity; and

(d) the names of States which are likely to be affected due to this less generation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Generation from hydro power stations is dependent upon the pattern of rainfall and inflows to the reservoirs.

(b) During the period April-July, 2004 the actual generation from hydro stations was 27837 ML) against a target of 28,390 ML) i.e. shortfall of 1.9% which represents a shortfall of meager 0.3% of the overall power generation target for the period. In view of the prediction of the Indian Meteorological Department of normal rainfall during 2004-05, it is too early to predict the shortfall in hydro generation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

<c) Main reason for shortfall in hydro generation has been low rainfall, thereby resulting in reduced inflows from the catchments of hydro stations.

(d) Some states are expected to have shortfall in hydro generation which is likely to be compensated by additional thermal generation.

Nuclear power generation by Reliance and NTPC

1545. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Reliance and NTPC propose to go for Nuclear generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this will help to tide over power shortage in the country and provide power at affordable rates?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) In so far as the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is concerned, its Corporate Plan (2002-2017) envisages that during the 12th Plan period, it might consider the option of adding about 2000 MW of nuclear capacity. In this regard, NTPC has recently taken up the matter with Department of Atomic Energy. The issue is at a very nascent stage and no specific proposal has been made by NTPC. As regard Reliance (M/s. Reliance Energy Ltd.), no specific proposal to set up a nuclear power generating station has been received from Reliance, either by Ministry of Power or by the Department of Atomic Energy.

Permission to NTPC to raise funds from open market borrowings

1546. SHRI RUDRANARAYAN PANY:
SHRI VIJAY J .DARDA:
SHRI BALWANT *alias* BALAPTE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to allow the NTPC to raise funds